

& northern Idaho. Supplies electricity to part of Alaska & gas to part of Oregon. Customers: 416,000 electric, 381,000 gas. Acq'd Alaska Electric Light and Power 7/14. Sold Ecova energy-management sub. 6/14. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 36%; commercial,

35% of revs. '23 reported depr. rate (Avista Utilities): 3.5%. Has 1,858 employees. Chairman: Scott L. Morris. Pres. & CEO: Dennis Vermillion. Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com

utility infrastructure will likely keep

capital spending elevated. Management

anticipates capital expenditures for Avista

Utilities to be approximately \$500 million this year. Most of this spending is expect-

ed to be directed toward upgrading aging

infrastructure, enhancing transmission and distribution, and supporting the in-

tegration and generation of renewables.

Utility companies are incentivized to invest in capital projects, providing a solid

We expect share earnings to grow at a

basis for rate case negotiations.

216 175 200 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 -2.0% 3.5% 3.0% Revenues 1.5% 'Cash Flow' 1.5% 1.0% 3.0% 5.0% Earnings 4.5% 3.5% 4.0% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1889

NA

+1.4

1860

NA

-1.0

1809

NA

+1.4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2021	412.9	298.2	296.0	431.8	1438.9
2022	462.7	378.6	359.4	509.5	1710.2
2023	474.6	379.9	379.6	517.5	1751.6
2024	609.4	386	390	454.6	1840
2025	610	390	400	500	1900
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2021	.98	.20	.20	.71	2.10
2022	.99	.16	d.08	1.05	2.12
2023	.73	.23	.19	1.08	2.24
2024	.91	.10	.15	1.29	2.45
2025	.95	.15	.20	1.30	2.60
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020	.405	.405	.405	.405	1.62
2021	.4225	.4225	.4225	.4225	1.69
2022	.44	.44	.44	.44	1.76
2023	.46	.46	.46	.46	1.84
2024	.475	.475			

Avista Utilities, a subsidiary of Avista Corporation, is awaiting a decision from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) on electric and natural gas rate increases filed in January. The proposed adjustments include significant hikes for December 2024 and 2025, aiming to boost annual base electric and natural gas revenues. Additionally, the company seeks changes to the Energy Recovery Mechanism. The WUTC typically takes 11 months to decide on such filings. To delve into the details, Avista's proposed adjustments aim to increase annual base electric revenues by \$77.1 million (13.0%) in December 2024 and \$53.7 million (11.7%) in December 2025. For natural gas, the proposed increases are \$17.3 million (13.6%) in December 2024 and \$4.6 million (3.2%) in December 2025. These rate hikes are based on a 10.4% return on equity, a common equity ratio of 48.5%, and a rate of return on a rate base of 7.61%. If approved, the new rates will take effect in December 2024 and 2025, remaining in place until 2026.

Investments to upgrade its essential

high-single-digit pace in 2024. The company should benefit from rate relief. Our estimate is a penny below the midpoint of Avista's guided range of \$2.36 to \$2.56 per share. Avista Utilities is expected to contribute \$2.23 to \$2.39 to earnings. Management's target for long-term annual earnings growth is 4% to 6% based on 2025's tally.

Timely

shares of Avista have worthwhile long-term capital appreciation potential. Additionally, the dividend yield (5.7%) is higher than the utility average.

Emma Jalees July 19, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '14, 9¢; '17, (16¢); gains on discont. ops.: '14, \$1.17; '15, 8¢. EPS may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due August 7th. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on Avg.; ID, Above Avg.

(B) Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.
■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '23: \$973.8 mill., \$12.47/sh. (D) In mill.

'22: 7.1%. Regulatory Climate: WA, Below

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 70 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 

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